

A

NARRATIVE

OF THE

A F F A I R

B E T W E E N

Mr. Cresswell, and Miss Sc--e,

A D D R E S S 'D T O

G---V---E, SC---E, Esq.

By which may be discover'd the

FALSITIES, MISREPRESENTATIONS, &c,

I N A

L E T T E R

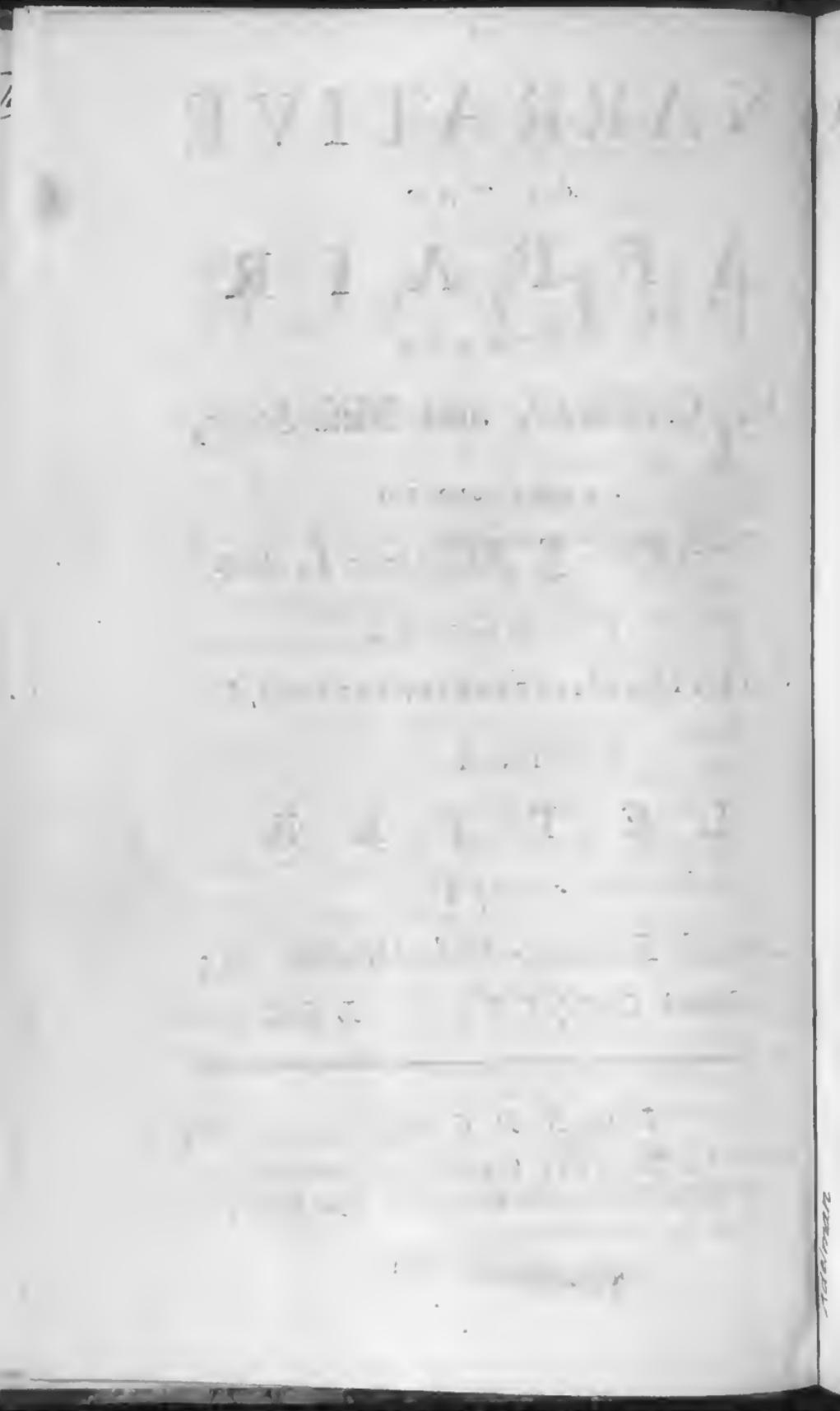
I N T H E

General Evening - Post, October 31;

Signed L A N C E L O T L E E,

L O N D O N:

Printed for CHARLES GREEN, in Avemary-Lane,
And Sold at the Pamphlet Shops at the Royal-Exchange,
Temple-Bar, and Charing-Cross.



THE PREFACE.

THOUGH it is impertinent to trouble the Publick with my private Affairs, yet I thought myself under a Necessity of publishing the following Sheets, in order to take off part of that Load of Infamy that has been laid upon me, and industriously propagated by those I did not expect it from; yet not content with that I have been attacked in the publick News-Papers, first in a concealed, since in an open Manner, by Lancelot Lee, who I thought was no more concerned in this Affair than the Queen of Spain. But he may, for private and particular Reasons, be fond of showing what he is capable of. My Design is to relate Truth and plain Matters of Fact; by which it will appear I am Culpable in some Things, (as what Man is there that is not) yet I deserve not that base and scandalous Treatment I have met with.

I wrote this on my first hearing of the monstrous Crimes I was charged with, which

The P R E F A C E.

I hope will palliate for that warmth of Expression that discovers itself at the beginning, and some other parts of the following Pages.

I told G--v--e Sc---e my Design, wish'd him to ask me not to do it; he defy'd me; yet I published not, nor ever should (because I am forced to introduce private Conversations and the Names of many worthy Persons) but through the persuasion of some Friends, who were of Opinion that Lee's Letter made it absolutely necessary, and would be a sufficient excuse for my so doing; yet it is Matter of real Concern to me, and I sincerely ask their Pardon.

I submit the whole Affair to the Publick, not doubting of their impartial and candid Judgment.

Pinkney, Nov.
16, 1747.

Tho. Est. Cresswell.

To

TO

G---- S----, Esq.

SIR,

TO your eternal Shame and Confusion, and of your Brother *Fred's*, *L's*, and your Sister's *Elizabeth S-*; I publish this true State of the Case between her and me.

If you think I have injured your Sister, be yourself that noble Gentleman my Love once thought you, and seek to redress her Wrongs by Ways becoming a Man, and a Gentleman, and cease publishing Things that you all know are Lies, Defamation and Slander, as the following Narrative shall make appear. Your Brother *Tom*, as a Man of Honour, scorns such Actions; to him as such, after expressing a proper Disdain for an insignificant Threat, I referred myself at the Beginning, but being refused, I refer myself to the Publick.

A little after *Christmas*, 1734, as I was reading of Prayers in the Family at *Sidbury*, I heard a sudden Noise, turned my Head

about, saw your Sister, your poor unfortunate Sister, lay flat on the Floor; I instantly jumped up, and took her in my Arms, your Brother *Fred.* was in the Room; when she came to herself again, she inquired how she came scared as she was, and we told her the Accident; presently after she cried out, *Good God, Cousin,* I am going to die, farewell, for ever; farewell *Fred.* and again went into a Fit; *Fred.* and I both really thought so, she never having had a Fit before; he fell a Roaring and Crying, I cried not, but was excessively shocked, having then the same and as great Regard for her, as thought she had been my Sister; this repeatedly happened three or four Times in the same Manner; at length I observed *Fred's* Crying concerned that then good-natur'd Creature, even in her Agonies; I chid *Fred.* severely, which turned his Passion another Way, I suppose, for it prevented his Crying; we carried her up Stairs, and had her put to Bed; after she was in Bed we went to see how she did, her Fits had not as yet quite left her, but they were much shorter, and the Intervals between them much longer than before. As I was sitting on the Bed-side by her, she violently seized one of my Hands, and clapped it on her Side, and with Vehemence said, *it is here; it is here;* I pressed as hard as I could, having observed her Father to do so many Years before in *Litchfield Street,* when she was out of Order; but not observing that it did any good, I ceased pressing and

and took my Hand away ; afterwards she, in a more gentle Manner, took my Hand, put it near the same Place again, and more gently said, *it is here ; it is here* ; so I let my Hand remain there, but pressed not ; in a little Time a Warmth diffused itself over her Hands, Face, Breasts, and I suppose over her whole Body ; her Fits left her, and she became chearful. As I ever had a great Opinion of Exercise, particularly of Riding on Horseback, I prescribed that to her ; and she, *Fred.* and I, every Day indulged ourselves in that innocent Amusement, till she was quite recovered ; then we all came together to *London*, your Father lodging then in *Warwick-Court*. As I had then as violent a Passion for Play, as you have now, I very seldom saw your Sister, I remember but once, except in Company with your Father, and then we had no Discourse of Love, Matrimony, or any Thing like it ; she was learning to dance, and your Father, when he went out of Town, left her at my Unkle *M—t—'s*, where I lived, that she might perfect herself in that Art. Summer and Horse-Races came on, I never missed any that are frequented by the *Londoners*, therefore was but little at Home. Never once, as I can remember, at that Time of her being in *London*, did I ever go with her to any Place of Diversion ; when she went out of Town, *Fred.* who had taken her a Place in the *Lincoln Stage-Coach*, and who was to meet us at the Inn, told us, or your Sister told me a wrong Time,

for she and I were at the Inn alone, full two Hours before the Stage-Coach set out, or Fred came, but we had no Discourse of Love or any Thing particular, as I can remember; yet, at this Place, I kissed her three or four Times, having in my Life never done so before, except saluting her at proper Season's can be called so; never had taken her by the Hand as I sat by her but once, and tho' my Grandmother came into the Room, she did not offer to take it away, but dropped a Handkerchief on both our Hands, by which I understood, that tho' she disliked not the Thing, she had rather my Grandmother should not see it; but I had often felt her Breasts, she frequently desiring me to do it, saying it would make them grow. Presently after she went out of Town, my Aunt M—t—n told me, that she was sure Betty S—e was in Love with me, because she was so very unhappy at the Thoughts of leaving London, where she had no Pleasure or Diversion, to go to Lincoln, where she would have a great Deal; that tho' she pretended it was at the Thoughts of leaving of her, yet she was sure it was for leaving of me: She then asked, whether I had ever talked to her of Love or Matrimony, I assured her that I never had, and that I was sure she could have no Thoughts of marrying me, for it was the constant Discourse of my Grandmother and me, that I should be absolutely ruined, if I married a Woman of small Fortune, and that I always declared I would not. Being,

as

as I before said, very much from Home, I had not taken Notice of her great Uneasiness, so I inquired into the Manner of her Behaviour, and found out, that had she lost all her Friends and Relations, she could not have shewed more Concern; yet she never had before me, no, not even when I parted with her at the Inn; this brought into my Mind her Behaviour after her Fit. The Day after she had that Fit, my Grandmother took me into the great Parlour, and made me promise that I would never marry her: These Considerations made me fancy that possibly she might love me, and thoroughly rooted it in my Memory..

At that Time my Grandmother and I constantly corresponded, and when she knew that your Sister had left London, she freely, in her Letters, talked to me about her; charged me with a Design of marrying her, I assured her I would not, and desired her never to let her come to Sidbury again, which she partly promised me; yet the next Time I went to Sidbury I found her there: She was in good Health when I came, but she gradually faded away, and was reduced to a mere Shadow: I consulted the Doctor that attended her, and he assured me that unless she altered, she would quickly die; that he had tryed all the Medicines he could think of, and he despaired of her: I then seriously reflected what I had best to do, and came

came to this Resolution; to tell her I would marry her, and when she was recovered, to assure her it was impossible, and advise her never to see me more. This I performed, and without any Apology or Preface whatever, said two or three Words, on which she almost instantaneously recovered, and I left her and went to *London*; at which Place I next saw her, behaved very surlily and brutishly to her, saw her as seldom as I possibly could; which she observing, desired to talk with me alone; she told me, she knew why I behaved so, gave me up my Promise, and assured me that she herself would not marry, to her own Ruin, any Man in the World unless she loved him, which she was sure I did not her; desired me to alter my Behaviour to her, for she could not bear it; that she would go to *Lincoln*, never see me more, and endeavour to conquer her Passion. To *Lincoln* she went, where she had, I believe, a violent Fit of Illness, and on her Recovery was advised to go into *Shropshire* for change of Air, which Advice she followed; for I never was at *Sidbury* but she was there, always found her well, and left her ill, through Love, as she told me. Once when I was there, but whether before or after your Sister Lady *De L*— was a Widow I can't tell, *Betty W*— said to me, that one Day or another I should meet a Man in the Fields* with

* Grounds so called that are in the Road between *Sidbury* and *Coton*.

a Bag*, that would come and carry Miss S—— away.

By which mysterious Speech, I understood that some Gentleman was making his Addresses to Miss S—— : talking to my Grandmother about it, she told me, that Mr. L—— had behaved very particular to Miss S——, but had said nothing either to her or Miss S—— relating to Marriage ; that Mrs. R——, and several others at Bridgenorth, thought that Mr. L—— designed making his Addresses to her, and that Mrs. R—— had advised her not to hearken to them ; that she, as she had a great Opinion of Mrs. R——, thought so too ; these are very near, if not exact, my Grandmother's Words. I then told her, if she had any Value or Respect for me, she ought to do every thing in her Power to forward it ; that, as to point of Fortune, it was a great Match for Miss S——, and she promised me she would. Sometime afterwards your Sister began talking to me about it, for I was determined never to begin with her : After she had, with great Sincerity, told me all she knew of it, which amounted to nothing, I advised her to marry him if she could ; she flew out into a violent Passion at me, which ended in Tears ; told me, that if he was the last of Man, and she of Woman, the Human Race should fail ; that of all Men she ever saw she hated him

* Mr. L—— at that Time wearing a Bag Wig.

the worst, that his Hands and Feet resembled those of a Baboon, and that it hurt her Eyes, and gave her Pain to look at him: Here we kissed, and were Friends, (I then believed her Constant) which had some Effect on mine and my Grandmother's Behaviour, when Mr. L— and his Sister came to *Sidbury*; but when I saw your Sister give him as much Encouragement as a modest, prudent Girl should, I doubted her Sincerity; and when she and I returned the Visit, we stayed longer by some Days than Mr. L— did at *Sidbury*; I behaved in a different Manner, and I am sure, at that Time, that one of Mr. L—'s Sisters did not think herself quite indifferent to me (though as from that time to this, I have never taken any the least particular Notice of her, she may possibly have forgot it,) neither was she so; and had she had Fortune equivalent I should have told her so: Mr. L— never returned this Visit, for what Reason I know not; this can't be it: The last Day we were there, I went a Hunting with him and several People, who assured me they wanted to go Home that Night, but they could not, unless I went, which it would be impossible for me to do, unless I took Care that my Horse should not be locked up; for Mr. L—, at that Time, indulged himself in a foolish Custom of keeping his Visitors by real and actual Force. These People wrought Mr. L— and me up to that Pitch, that it became

came a Tryal of Skill between us, whether I should go or not, but to go I was determined, having actual Business to do the next Day at Shrewsbury; therefore I ordered my Grandmother's Servant to take particular Care to put any one Horse of the three in a Place where he was sure to come at him, this he attempted, and meant doing; he thought himself wise, and assured me I should have a Horse if he watched him all the Time, yet he was disappointed, and when I spoke with him, he scratched his Head and looked very foolish; I then went out myself, and discovered an unthought of and never used Way through another Building into the Loft of the Stable, into which I descended, broke open the Door, and took my Horse, which having done, I mounted him, and was soon met by Mr. L—, whom I saluted in the most civil, complaisant Manner I could, gave him a true, sincere, and hearty Invitation to Sidbury: Mr. L— knows that at that Time he freely talked to me of his Affairs, and in some Measure followed my Advice, and I believe now sincerely wishes he had in others, which, if he had done, and kept his Promises, he had not stood Candidate for Bridgnorth. Some little time afterwards, and on a very wet, fainy Day, your Sister and I, notwithstanding she was just recovered from a violent Cold, went, by Appointment, to meet Mr. L— at his Mother's at

Bridgenorth, but he disappointed us ; this is all that I know of this pretended Courtship, never having been in Company with your Sister and Mr. L—, together, since, except last Summer once at *Coton* ; why then does your Sister and Mr. L— charge me with having prevented their marrying ? Your Sister, by saying I then first engaged her, which made her refuse Mr. L—, which she knows to be a Lye, and so does he, for he never asked her ; then consequently she could not refuse him, neither would she have done it, unless I would have immediately married her : When your Sister Lady D—— was first a Widow, she will, I dare say, do me the Justice to own, that I used my utmost Endeavours to prevail with her to engage her Sister to live with her by way of Companion, she asked your Sister to do it, but she refused her, yet I was very near succeeding in my Scheme of forcing her to it ; it was thus determined the Night before Lady D—— left *Sidbury*, as you yourself may possibly remember, Lady D——, yourself and me pressing your Sister *Betty* to go, my Grandmother not asking her to stay, in consequence of a Promise she had made me, *Betty* said, I must, for my Grandmother does not ask me to stay ; said Mrs. S—, and Mrs. H—, if it is come to that, you must ask her, Madam ; I frowned upon my Grandmother, and prevented

prevented her for some time, yet at last she did ask, and *Betty* staid,

From this Time I remember nothing remarkable that passed between your Sister and me, till the first Winter that we came to *Pinkney*, <sup>22. deauy
y. dñe</sup> she had been low-spirited for some Time; I had no Pretence of Business at *London*, therefore could not leave her, yet I took no Notice of her, till accidentally coming Home at the same Time that my Grandmother and she returned from airing, I observed her stagger, as she was walking into the House, and would have been down, had I not run and catched her, and it was with Difficulty that I got her up Stairs into her Chamber; I took her in my Arms, and kissed her, and said, *Betty*, you had better let me lie with you, to which she silently consented, and I had then done it, but, at that instant, a Servant came up Stairs and told me there was Company below, I answered, I will come presently; in about the Space that a Man can tell Twenty, there came another, to whom I gave the same Answer; in about the same Space my Grandmother came up, so I went down Stairs to them.

The next Day, I took my Horse and went to my Cousin C—r's, on Purpose to be out of the Way; I returned the *Sunday* following, stayed at Home in the Afternoon whilst the Family were gone to Church, to post my Ac-

counts, which I as regularly then did, every Sunday, as any Merchant in *England*; your Sister was alone with me in the Room, and I took no Notice of her, upon which, she, in a violent Passion, went up Stairs to her own Room, stay'd some little Time, and came down again; I still at my Accounts took no Notice of her, upon which she said, Good God, Cousin, what will you think of me; I instantly jumped up, stopped her speaking farther by Kisses, and told her, I thought her as virtuous a Girl as any in *England*, that instant the Coach came from Church to the Gate, so no more passed at that Time; she recovered this Bout, which was in the Spring of the Year, and got very well again; and I prevailed with her to go and live with her Father at *Lincoln*, and had your Father lived a little longer she had gone.

The Summer following my Uncle *M—n* came to *Pinkney*, stayed several Months, made your Sister promise him to go with him as far as *Cirencester* in his Way to *London*, which she told me of, and endeavoured to prevail with me to go with them, I refused, which made her refuse my Uncle, which he telling of at Supper the Night before he left us, made the whole Company fall upon me, and force me to comply at this Time; to my certain Knowledge I had not been alone with her for more than six Months. When we were together in the Chariot coming homie, she began with

me talking of Love, &c. we came to the following Agreement, viz. that I should lie with her, that if I got her with Child I would marry her, but if not, and she was by those Means relieved from her former Disorders, she should permit me to marry another Woman : She promised she would deal honourably, and suffer me to do so, if she was so relieved ; we were to meet the following Evening in an unfrequented Chamber, that either of us could go to, without any one's taking Notice of it, it being the little Room at the End of the long Gallery, a little after Five o'Clock ; at which Hour my Grandmother, as you know, constantly went into her Bed-chamber to Prayer for an Hour; therefore you must know, that this Hour I could every Day of my Life have spent alone with your Sister ; a Quarter of an Hour after Five I came into the House, looked into the Parlour, held the Door in my Hand, saw your Sister alone, asked her why she was not in the little Room ? She told me she was afraid ; don't then, said I, and shutting the Door, left her. After this, your Sister took it into her Head to walk every Night by herself under the Piazza, having first taken Care to shut the little Parlour Window Shutters, and to leave open the long Gallery and Bowling Green Doors : Here she constantly met me as I came Home of an Evening, before I could get into the House, and we walked together under the

Piazza

Piazza unseen, and unknown by any Body ; here kissing of her, and toying with her, she told me the long Gallery Door was open, and you yourself know, that from this Place we might with great Ease and Secrefy have retired through the Bowling Green and long Gallery Doors into the little Room before mentioned ; yet, during one whole Month that she continued this Practice, I did not once ask her, nor she me, though I don't suppose the long Gallery Door was not constantly left open, for she never told me so, but the first Night ; yet, however, here we met, here we walked, here we kissed and toyed, till the cold Weather came on and prevented us ; she became ill again, and this was the only Illnes she ever had, which she did not attribute to my Brutality and ill Usage of her, which she now entirely acquitted me of ; for as she was much concerned at your Father's Death, I behaved with great Kindness, Tendernes and Humanity to her : At the Beginning of this Illness I received a Letter from Lord D——, telling me, he believed I might haye a certain young Lady ; which Letter I did not answer till after my return from *Sidbury*, to which Place I purposely went to be out of the Way ; when I came back, your Sister was pretty well recovered, I shewed her the Letter, and asked her what Answer I should give : This Letter made her Illness return with greater Violence than ever ; she was

was really to be pitied, as she has told me herself she did not sleep for sixteen Nights together; she was in perpetual and eternal Convulsions, making horrid and unnatural Noises, which wrought on my Grandmother's Pity, who till now, ever scolded her when she was in this Way, till I, by Force, turned her out of the Room; and she would suffer me, nay, even ask me to be alone with her; which, whenever I was, and began to kiss her, in a Minute's time she would be easy: It was observed by the whole Family, that nothing could quiet her but my being alone with her; so whenever her Fits came on they instantly left the Room, if I was in it, if not, they sent for me, and as soon as I came they quitted it, and your Sister would be at Ease, as I said before, in a Minute's Time, or less. I proposed lying with her, she would not Consent but on Terms which were these; that I should marry any other Woman, afterwards marry her, reserve for her and her Issue, if she had any by me, the *Sidbury Estate*; I to live sometimes with the one, and sometimes with the other. One Night when I came Home, I was surprized that your Sister had changed Rooms with Mrs. H——, the Reason of which Change was, because in the Night time, I could not come into that which she left, without Danger of my Grandmother's hearing, whereas I might, and have, into that that she went into many a Hundred

Times

Times without my Grandmother's, or any one, except your Sister's knowing : This Night she gave me a Letter, desiring me to come to her about One o'Clock, with my Breeches on, to explain the Terms ; I went without my Breeches, and when we had talked some Time, she asked me to come to Bed to her, which I did, and lay with her ; her Reflections on what she had done were very tormenting to her, and prevented her quick Recovery ; presently after she desired me not to come to her, and I ceased doing of it. The next Sunday in the Afternoon she prevailed with me to read over with her the Marriage Ceremony, and when it was over, I lay with her ; she told me she might have placed Jenny in the Closet, and then this would have been a lawful Marriage, but that she scorned it, she had too much Generosity to do it ; but had she attempted it, it would have been in vain, for I took Care to know where every single Person belonging to the Family were, before I ventured at it ; she quickly recovered, and I put off the other Match ; neither has she ever since been ill in that Manner.

The Laudanum Affair was this, I had consulted an eminent Physician on your Sister's Illness, without telling him the Cause, and he said, that Laudanum was the best Thing for her, and she used to take it in great Quantities, even in those Sixteen Days and Nights that she did not Sleep ; I advised her still

to increase the Quantity, which she did, and it answered the Purpose ; and when she found she was going to sleep, she was surprized, got out of Bed, and came to me, desired me to call the Servants, and get her some warm Water to Vomit ; I asked how much she had taken, for I, following Ovid's Advice, never gave her any Medicine ; she told me the Quantity, which was not a great deal more than she had usually taken : I bid her not be frightened, but to go to Bed again and Sleep, for I was sure it would do her a great deal of good ; she went to Bed again, slept till Morning, waked, drank Chocolate, slept again, waked, breakfasted, dosed till Dinner, dined heartily, dosed on till Supper, supped well, slept all Night, and recovered very fast. This poor Creature was wonderfully afraid of Death, thinking herself a Sinner, yet at any time before she would have been glad to die ; so, in the same Manner a Day or two after, on a trifling Accident, she sent to me to come to her instantly, for she was going to die, though she knew I was at that Time reading Prayers to the Family ; I went to her in a Moment, alarmed all the House, and when she told me the Thing, laughed at her, for it portended Death no more than the cutting of her Finger would have done : She now presently recovered and got quite well again.

I received a Letter from a Neighbour of mine, who was then in *London*, telling me, he was

sure that if I would come to Town; I might marry a young Lady with Ten Thousand Pounds Fortune ; which Letter I shewed your Sister, saw she could not possibly bare the Thoughts of it, therefore I assured her I would not ; but her Uneasiness still continuing, convinced me, that she doubted my Sincerity : I desired her to go to *London* under Pretence of seeing you, who was to be in Town that Spring, and who she had never seen since her Father's Death ; she accordingly went to *London*, in a Fortnight I followed, telling my Grandmother just before I set out the Reason of my Journey : When I came to Town I waited on my Neighbour, who told me the Lady's Fortune was not quite so much, for which I was very angry with him ; he then told me, that he was informed so, and thought so, and did not know but it might be so, and desired me to see the Lady, which I refused, upon which he said he would go and talk with his Friend again, which he did, and then very earnestly pressed me to see the Lady, saying, he did not know what might happen : I consented, saw her, she was handsome, very sensible, and as I was informed, by a Gentleman of good Sense and true Honour, of a charming, sweet Disposition as any Woman in *England* : When I saw my Neighbour next, he went with me to his Friend, who asked me how I liked the Lady ; as the Lady could not be disliked, I found fault with

with her Fortune : He then asked me, seriously, if that was my only Objection, to which I made no Answer, so this Affair ended. I knew your Sister could not then bear it, yet I was obliged to act this Farce, or I should have gave my Grandmother vast Uneasiness, for it was not in my Power to have prevented her knowing that my Neighbour had sent me such a Letter : Presently after your Sister and I returned to *Pinkney*.

You came there that Spring ; your Sister, you and I went to *Chiltenham*, where we got acquainted with the Honourable Mr. S——— and his Lady ; from *Chiltenham*, I first, your Sister and you afterwards, returned to *Pinkney* ; at which Place, one Night when I was in Bed with your Sister, she told me, she thought she was with Child, and was almost frightened to Death at the Thoughts of it, and asked me my Advice, whether, if she were, she should take any thing to make her Miscarry ; I entertained her with such Discourse as this, That if Mankind ever agreed in any one Opinion, but indeed they were not, nor never would, it was in this, that Man and Woman were entirely at their free Liberty, whether they would propagate or not, although *Moses* had preached to the Children of *Israel*, that it was God's Or-dinance that they should increase and multiply, and to encourage them to it, allowed of Poly-

gamy and Divorce whenever the Man pleased, and had assured them, in such a Manner, that they believed him, that from out of some one of the meanest Families there should arise a God, or an Universal Monarch ; yet Christ has forbid either Polygamy or Divorce ; and St. Paul, the wisest of the Apostles, preached such a Doctrine that has occasioned thousands and ten thousands of Men and Women to be locked up, and to be rendered utterly incapable of propagating ; that the ancient *Greeks* and *Romans*, and at present the *Chinese*, though by their Laws they encourage Propagation, yet they gave the Parents free Liberty to dispose of their Children as they pleased ; that it was no more infamous for a poor Man in *China* to expose his Child than for a poor Man in *England* to get drunk, or to beat his Wife ; and that I had heard, that it was the frequent Practice of the *Indian* Women to make themselves miscarry ; but the Christian Law, though it in a great Measure hindered the Increase of Mankind, yet absolutely forbid the Destruction of any ; and I had been told, that the Laws of *France* as severely punished those Women that wilfully made themselves miscarry as if they had committed actual Murder, but the Laws of *England* did not : Then we discoursed of other Affairs, and I left her, went to my own Bed, and, before I got to sleep, she came to me, was as cold as a Stone, and told

told me she was freightened out of her Wits, for that she had heard some one of the Men Servants go down Stairs just as she came out of her own Chamber Door, therefore she durst not go either backward or forward, but had stood in the Cold more than half an Hour, yet was determined to come to speak to me again, because she was to go to *Bath* on the Morrow with you, where she was to stay some Time, she told me that she could not make neither Head or Tail of what I had said to her ; she knew it was a Woman's Duty to obey her Husband, that therefore I should determine, and she would do what I pleased any time before the Child was quick, and engaged me to come to *Bath* on a certain Day, before which she should be certain, and would do what I thought proper ; she stayed with me till it was Light, then left me : I went to *Bath* on the Day appointed, and though she stay'd at Home with me the whole Evening, did not go to the Rooms, yet not a single Syllable past between either of us relating to this Affair : I was to go Home the next Morning pretty early, but she insisted on seeing me in her own Chamber, before she was up, to take her Leave of me ; here she told me she was not with Child, I answered I was glad of it, you was then in Bed in the adjoining Chamber, therefore I stayed not a Minute with her, took my Leave and went Home.

Some

*Denis
on h. H.*

Some little Time afterwards I came to Bath again, desired her to come Home as soon as she could, to go with me to Mrs. S——'s, and to get her to make Proposals of Marriage between me and Miss W——, of *Bibury*, which I did not care should be done whilst you stayed ; therefore, as you may remember, we contrived to send you on an idle Errand to *London*, sometime sooner than you had designed going ; it was her Invention, as you must be conscious of, when you reflect on what it was ; she answered that she should be very happy if she had Five Thousand Pounds Fortune, for then she could live as well as she desired to do, let what Accident soever happen to her Friends or Relations, but that she would never marry any other Man than me, no not even was I to die ; I then told her, that as you gave her a Hundred Pounds a Year Interest Money for her Fortune, I would give her another, if she would assist me in what I was about, she asked me what it was, I told her, I had Thoughts of marrying Miss W—— ; it was this made her find out the Expedient which sent you to *London* ; I knew she could bear it, else she would not have engaged to have gone and have kept your House in *Lincolnshire*, where I should never have seen her more, which you know she did the Summer before ; but our unlucky Stars prevented your Scheme, neither would she have listened,

listened, as you also know she did, to two several Offers of Marriage the same Summer, which she endeavoured to keep secret from me, though she herself told me of them afterwards, but not till she was certain I had heard of them by other People, and she had herself partly refused them, they not being advantageous ones, which had either of them been, she would not have done.

I particularly well remember a Conversation that passed between both your Sisters, my Brother and self, at your Father's House in *Litchfield-Street*, when we were all Children; we all agreed in this one Opinion, that we would not marry any one that we did not love, nor any one that did not love us; my Brother asked your Sister *Betty*, who was not then above ten Years of Age, how she could be sure that a Man loved her, she answered if he had a superior Fortune, which we all thought a very good Reason, and were all determined to bring it to that Test; have you not often heard your Father repeat this remarkable Speech that our Grandmother had taught all her Grand-Children to believe, that they were all Princes and Princesses. Your Sister with Chearfulness engaged to assist me in my Scheme, accepted my Promise, went with me to Mrs. S——'s; as soon as she came into the House, she went up Stairs with Mrs. S——, and began discoursing her upon
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the Affair, as I can now prove by living Witness; when they came down into the Parlour to me, we continued the Discourse, and Mrs. S——, in a very good natured Manner, thinking it a tolerable equal Match on both Sides, undertook to write to Mrs. W—— about it, and I was refused.

About a Year afterwards, one L—— a Farmer of Sherston, came to me, and told me that if I would apply to A—— R——, Esq. an Attorney, that he was sure he could help me to Miss W——; I asked him which way he was sure of it? He told me he never undertook any Thing in his Life time, but what he brought to pass; that he himself was a Man of infinitely more Consequence than I took him to be. I desired him to leave off his idle prating, and tell me what Authority he had? He told me, a Letter; upon which I agreed to go with him, and talk to Mr. R—— about it, which I did, and he entertained me with such sort of Discourse, telling me, that he himself had married three Wives, his last a Lady of Thirty Thousand Pounds Fortune; that he could strangely and surprizingly influence the Affections of Women, that he would venture his Life on it if I would be intirely and absolutely be guided by him, I should marry Miss W——, whose Fortune was Eight Thousand, some few odd Hundred Pounds in Money, Bibury Estate after her Mother's Death, which would sell for Ten Thousand

Thousand Pounds, in the mean time an Annuity of 300*l.* per Annum; that she had a Maiden Aunt that lived with her and her Mother, that was likewise worth Ten Thousand Pounds, and was as fond of her as it was possible for any Mother to be of a Daughter; that as she had refused several advantageous Matches when she was young, there was no likelihood of her marrying now; and as she had no other near Relation, no doubt of it she would leave Miss W——— her whole Fortune; but as it would not be reasonable, therefore I must not expect to confine her to it; and to his certain Knowledge, Mrs. W——— was worth in Money, &c. Three or Four Thousand Pounds, consequently Miss W——— might be justly called a Thirty Thousand Pound Fortune, which was in his Power to give me and thereby make my Circumstances compleatly easy. I told him that about a Year before, I had, by Mrs. S——— made Proposals, and had been refused; he told me that there was great Difference in the People who did these Things: I told him that she was a Lady of Honour, and a Relation of the Family; to which he reply'd, That he was sure he could do it, but that the first Offer must come from me; I fancying that he talked with Authority, told him, that I wou'd be guided by him, and accordingly left a Letter with him for Mrs. W———; He told me; he had an

excellent knack at writing of Letters, and that he would furnish me before I left him with two, one for the Mother and one for the Daughter, which he would advise me to copy and send to them by a Servant, together with a Present of a Haunch of Venison: I obey'd his Commands, and received an Answer from Mrs. W——, but none from her Daughter; she told me, that Captain S—— was then with her, that as he was an Acquaintance of mine, I might on a Day she mentioned, call on him, and see her Daughter, which I accordingly did; after Dinner he went out into the Garden, and came and tapp'd at the Window, upon which I went to him, and began talking with him freely upon the Affair: he asked me how I liked Miss W——, I told him I was not at all enamoured with her Person, but that signified not much, for the Persons of Women were very indifferent to me, provided they were sensible and good-natured, and that I would not chuse a Companion for Life that wanted either of these Qualifications on any Consideration in the World. He told me it was every Man's Business to judge for himself, and though he had often been in Company with Miss W—— he knew her but little, for she was, as I saw, a very reserved young Lady; but as he had been informed she wanted neither of these Qualifications.. He asked me, if it would not be better for me to have Ten Thousand

Thousand Pounds and to be entirely out of Debt, and assured me to his Knowledge there was Money enough in the Family to do it, but he was not commissioned to tell me I should have it. Here we parted, and he told me to go to Mrs. W——— who was waiting for me in the Drawing Room. I found her with the Particulars of my Estate in her Hands; and she told me that if my Estate answered to those Particulars, and her Daughter and I liked one another, she had no Objection to our marrying; but I must not come there any more till that was examined into, and then I had free Liberty to come whenever I pleased; that I must excuse her for examining strictly into it: I told her as what I had given her was absolutely true and just, the more strictly she enquired into it, the more pleasing it would be to me, as it would authorize me strictly to examine into her Daughter's Circumstances. She made Excuses for not asking me to stay all Night, told me to go into the Hall to Mr. S———, and after some short time to walk with him into the Garden, where I should find her Daughter, her Sister, and Self, then walk all together for some time, take my Leave and go Home, which I accordingly did: After some short Time, Mr. R—— and a Tenant of Mrs. W——'s, came to Pinkney, sent for Mr. L—— their Business being, as they told me, ^{new.} to examine whether my Estate answered to the

Particulars or not; I told them they had free Liberty to examine into it; that they would find I had not spoke to one single Tenant concerning it, desired to be excused from going with them, but would give them a written Order for the Tenants to produce their last Receipts. This they thought a needless Trouble, *L*—, who had received the Rents of this Estate Fourteen Years, having assured Mr. *R*—, upon his Honour, that he knew the Particulars to be true. This Night at Supper, your Sister knowing the Business that these Men came upon, appeared very uneasy, which *R*— taking Notice of, told her she looked as if she had lost her Love; which he repeated to her again after Supper, and by that and several other ill-natured Jests, forced her to go up Stairs that Night sooner than otherwise she designed: The next Morning, as they said they must do something, they rode out to view the Estate, and to see how some young Hedges that I had lately planted grew; came Home again to Dinner, and told me they liked it very well; We drank all this Afternoon; next Morning when they were going away, *R*— altered two or three trifling Articles of the Particulars, that he might appear to Mrs. *W*— to have done something; and afterwards let me know that it was approved of. On hearing that Miss *W*— was in a Coach that was overturned on *Burford* Downs, and was very much bruised

bruised and cut, I went to Bibury to see how she did ; there was a good deal of Company there ; I did not behave in the least Particular towards Miss W——, stay'd four or five Days, came Home again ; was told by a neighbouring Gentleman that Parson W—— gave out publickly at Burford Races, that Miss W—— was not by her Father's Will, intituled to the Inheritance of Bibury Estate, which the next Time I went to Bibury, I told Mrs. W—— ; she gave me a Copy of Mr. W——'s Will, gave me the Opinion of the late Lord Chancellor, and of several other eminent Lawyers, who were entirely in her Favour ; bid me carry them Home and examine them carefully, and to do nothing rashly ; I carried them Home, shewed them my Neighbour, and we were both of Opinion the Inheritance was certainly her's, and that the Parson spread that Report only to prevent Miss W——'s marrying, and himself from paying her an Annuity of Three Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, which her Father by his Will had gave her for her Mother's Life, and charged it upon an Estate he had gave him of about Two Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, who was a very distant if any Relation at all, to Mr. W——. This Will was so wretchedly drawn, that according to the Law Construction of Words he has not in Truth gave any Thing to the Parson ; yet the Lord Chancellor, as he could not suppose that a Man

Man could sign, seal, and publish a Paper, which he called his Will, and mean nothing by it, in his Equity and Justice, gave the Estate to the Parson; and I hope this present Chancellor will, upon the same Principle, give the Inheritance of *Bibury* to my Wife, for her Father as certainly meant the one as the other; yet this unjust Parson disputes it with her, though in his Conscience he knows his Benefactor designed it for her; for he cannot suppose he design'd robbing his innocent Daughter of her own Family Inheritance, only to enrich a Name, which such an Action would render infamous. Thus being fully satisfied, that the Inheritance of *Bibury* must belong to my now Wife, I proceeded on in my Designs of marrying her, expecting one Day or another, that Mrs. *W*— would generously offer me the two thousand Pounds that Mr. *S*— hinted at; but hearing nothing of it, as I was walking with her alone one Day in the Garden, I mentioned it to her; she told me, that if I married her Daughter, and had a Family, undoubtedly every Thing that she had she should give her, but that she could not afford to part with so much Money at present; for if her Estate at *Bibury* was to fall in Hand, she should not have Money enough left to stock it; with which Answer I appeared satisfied, but told her, that I was certain that her Daughter's Fortune would not be paid me by the Day that I had fixed to pay off a Mortgage

gage of eight thousand Pounds that affected my Estate ; she replied, shall I take the Thorn out of your Foot and put it in my own, I told her I did not desire it ; but, as I thought the Securities for her Daughter's Money were good, if she had Money ready by her, it would be no Inconvenience to her ; she replied, that though they were good, it might occasion great Trouble and Law-Suits to recover the Money, and that I was better able to go through it than she. I told her, that if she did take them, I would engage to go through the whole Affair ; she replied, if they are not paid by the Time you want them, I will lend you what Money you want. I told her that I was informed that one of the Securities was bad, upon which she promised me to take that ; here we parted, and I continued my Courtship, and desired an Opportunity of talking to Miss W—— alone, which was granted me for half an Hour, in which half Hour she promised to marry me. I now desired Mrs. W—— to give me an Opportunity of being better acquainted with her Daughter, for though I every Day applied to her in Company to discourse on all Sorts of Subjects, yet I could never get her to talk ; on this, she promised me I should see her alone the next Day, which I accordingly did : I happened to kiss her, she got up in great Wrath, left the Room, and protested she would never again be alone in my Company till she was married, which

which I told Mrs. W——, who replied, you know her now as well as ever you will know her, do what you will; I continued on, and we agreed to be married: Mr. R—— was ordered to make Marriage Articles, which, whilst he was about, I went to his House to see him and them; here by talking with him, and seeing several Papers relating to former Proceedings in order to determine whose the Inheritance of *Bibury* was, which Mrs. W—— would willingly have had tryed and determined; but yet by Chance or Design was ever prevented doing it; I began to perceive that Point was not so Clear as I had apprehended it, which made me very much out of Humour with myself for having depended on my own and my Neighbour's; a Country Gentleman's Opinion on so important a Point; yet as Mrs. W—— had never actually deceived me, I was determined to proceed, though at the same time I was determined that if ever I should have a fair and justifiable Cause, that I would have done with them; and accordingly; I objected on the reading the Marriage Articles to an Exception of certain Lands reserved to be in Mrs. W——'s Disposal, though they were included in the Particular of *Bibury*, that had been given me; to which Mrs. W—— reply'd, that if I insisted on it, she would give it up, though she had bought them with her own Money, but she should take

take it very unkind in me if I did, for she had no Design to leave any Thing away from her Daughter, and her Family; with which Answer, as the Affair was trifling, I was forced to be satisfied: The next Objection I made, was to a Reserve, to enable my Wife by Deed or Will, after my Decease, in Case she had no Issue, to give *Bibury* to whom she pleased; here all the Company fell upon me, asking me if it was not in the Power of any Husband that lived well with his Wife, in any one fond Hour, to prevail with her to do what he pleased, particularly such a one as Miss *W*—, who had no near Relation; that it would be ill-judged in me to put it out of my Wife's Power to make me a Compliment; as this I thought was sound Reason, I acquiesced. The Articles were finished and signed; a Copy of them I brought Home and shewed your Sister, and as *Sidbury* Estate was not by them settled on my Wife and her Issue, she appeared perfectly satisfied: I employed her to buy my Wedding Shirts, which were finer and better than any I ever before had, and by her Conversation on that Occasion with the Milliner, who is now living, can fully prove that she knew of it, as I can likewise by the Taylor who made my Wedding Cloaths; that in Compliance to some foolish Superstition of her's, I changed the intended Colour of the Lining of my Coat from Green to Red; by my whole

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Family and the whole Neighbourhood, that my Courtship and intended Marriage was no Secret, but to her it was better known than any Body; for as I divided my Time as equally as I could between *Bibury* and Home, whenever I was at Home she constantly came to Bed to me every Night and discoursed with me about it; she not only knew every material Transaction, but almost every Word and Syllable that passed at *Bibury* relating to this Affair. Is it usual for People to sign Marriage Articles and buy Wedding Cloaths, &c. when they design not to marry?

The last Time that I was at *Bibury* before I was married, your Sister and I both thought it would have been then done, but I was prevented doing it on Account of Miss *W*——'s having a little Rash, and both she and her Mother were determined that she should not marry until she was quite recovered; this I told your Sister when I came Home, so that we were both uncertain whether we should be married or no: The next Time I went we were, which had we not then, it probably never would have been, for *Lent* then would have begun, during which Season both Mrs. *W*—— and her Daughter were determined that it should not be, and as I had wanted only a justifiable Reason to break off ever since my Conversation with Mr. *R*—— at *Filkins*, concerning the Inheritance of *Bibury*, when I went to peruse the Marriage Articles, I did

did not doubt but, during that Season, I should find one ; and your Sister's pressing me to know the last Night I ever lay at *Pinkney* before I was married, whether I thought I should be married or no the next Time I went, I told her that that depended intirely on Miss *W——'*s Health ; she said, if you are not married then, you will be another Time ; I replying that many Things happen between the Cup and the Lip, which was the only Hint I ever gave her from the beginning to the ending of this Courtship, that I ever thought there was even so much as a Possibility of its coming to nothing ; why then doth she, with such Confidence, say, that she knew nothing of my being to be married ? Some little Time after I was married, my Mother, Aunt, Wife and Self, went from *Bibury* to *London* ; on the Road thither, my Wife first began to behave herself towards me in an odd, shy, unaccountable Manner, which at last proceeded to such a Height, that she would not suffer me even so much as to take her by the Hand to help her in or out of the Coach, but would call her Mother's Footman to do it, never would speak to me when I applyed to her in Company, nor take any the least Notice of me when I drank to her, though frequently called upon to do it by her Mother and Aunt ; and whenever I was alone with her would constantly scold me, notwithstanding any thing, except ill-natured Re-

plies and bad Usage, that I could do to prevent it, till she was tired and went to sleep; this Behaviour of hers, made me, when in *London*, not behave myself with that Love, Tenderness and Respect, that new-married Men usually shew towards their Wives; yet even then I shewed as much Fondness for her as ever I had done during our Courtship. On the Road, coming from *London*, my Mother seriously asked me if I knew any Reason for my Wife's thus behaving herself, I assured her I did not, and desired her to talk with her Daughter to see if she could tell her any: Whether she did or no, I cannot possibly say, but the next Day my Mother advised me to slight her, which I accordingly did, and when I took my Leave of her at *Bibury*, to come to *Pinkney*, took little or no Notice of her: To *Pinkney* I came; after Supper your Sister said she had a Mind to drink a Glass or two of Punch, if I would drink some with her; I told her I would; then, says she, you shall help to make it, to which I agreed: Whilst we were making the Punch, she said to me, I will not come to Bed to you to Night; then I will come to you, said I; she answered, do as you please: I accordingly went, took her in my Arms and kissed her, and was surprized she did not return them with that Warmth she usually did, and asked her what was the Matter? she said, you have another Woman; I reply'd, what signifies

signifies that, and kiss'd and talk'd : In less than a Minute she told me she would come to me the next Night, which she did, and every Night after whilst I staid at *Pinkney*, except the last, which was a Week longer than I designed, occasioned by this Accident : I desired her not to come to me on such a particular Night, telling her, I designed going the Day following to *Bibury*; yet she came, and pretended she would not let me lie with her ; but I quickly got over that Difficulty, told her what my Mother had said to me about slighting her Daughter ; as I found she desired it, I would stay another Week; if she would not come to me the last Night or two I stayed, and she kept her Promise. When I next went to *Bibury*, I did not immediately find that my slighting my Wife had produced any good Effect, yet in a few Days I did, and we went on tolerably well together. I, as yet, spent my Time between *Bibury* and *Pinkney*, in the same Manner as I had done during the Courtship, till I received a large Part of my Wife's Fortune ; which, with a Thousand Pounds my Mother and Aunt lent me, and Seven Hundred and Fifty Pounds that I borrowed at *Bristol*, enabled me to pay off the Mortgage of Eight Thousand Pounds that was upon my Estate. Now my Grandmother and your Sister went from hence to live at *Sidbury*, and insisted on my going with them ; it was with some Difficulty that they prevailed

vailed on me. To *Sidbury* we went ; I stayed there about three Weeks ; during which time, your Sister and I were perpetually together : She made me promise her that I would come again the next Winter and stay there a Month or six Weeks. It was this Summer that you came to *Sidbury* to live with my Grandmother, but on what Motive you best can tell, whether to save Money, as you yourself told me, or to bear your Sister Company : This I am certain of, that she, in her Letters told me that she had done every thing that was in her Power, both with you and my Grandmother, to prevent your continual stay there. I told her that I thought she was wrong, for you would not only be a very good Companion for her, but be the Means of bringing a great deal more Company to the House, then possibly could come were you not there ; but said she, it will prevent your coming, and I prefer your Company to that of all the World.

From *Sidbury* to *Bibury* I went ; stayed there some little Time, then, with my Wife, Mother, and Aunt, came to *Pinkney* : After some short stay, my Mother and Aunt left us and returned to *Bibury* : My Wife and I went on tolerably well together, having a good deal of Company, and being seldom or ever alone with her but at Nights, yet not so well but that I heartily repented my having married her ; and now comparing

paring, in my own Mind; the different Behaviour of the two Women, that the one ever had done all Things that was in her Power to make me happy whilst I was with her, and that the other daily did and said all Things that she could to make me unhappy, I first began to love your Sister, and in my Letters to her told her so, which I had never before done; either by Word or Letter: In these Letters I poured fourth my whole Soul to her, and said such Things as Love can Influence a sincere Man to say; to these Letters I received as warm and passionate Answers as, I believe, ever were wrote; warmer than I ever read. My Wife and I went to visit her Mother, it being the Time of *Burford Horse-Races*; stayed some little Time with her, then went to visit a Relation of my Wife's, who treated us with great Goodness and Generosity; at this Place my Wife quarrell'd with me again, but for what Reason I never yet knew or heard, nor can I so much as guess at it: From this Place we returned to *Bibury* again. After some few Days stay here, I went to *Pinkney*, from thence to *Sidbury*, where you then was; you went into *Lincolnsire* in a Day or two, as your Sister had before informed me you would, and desired that I would then come, which I accordingly did, as you must remember: In your Absence, she, several times before my Face, laboured as heartily as she could with my Grandmother to prevent your Return, and once quarrelled with me because I would

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not afflit her; from which time I was forced to do it, and we both of us used our utmost Endeavours to prevent it but to no Purpose. From this Place I went to *Bibury*; stayed two or three Days; came to *Pinkney* with her and a young Lady a Relation of hers. I did not find that my Absence, and my having been in *Shropshire* had wrought any good with my Wife, because she now constantly scolded me whenever I was alone with her; I therefore determined to see whether Jealousy would work any good upon her; therefore I affected, before her Face, to careſs her Relation, and to behave with great Civility and Complaisance to her, which my Wife taking Notice of, asked me the Reason of it; I told her it was because she behaved civilly towards me, which if she herself would, I should prefer her to all the World; but she, disdaining to do it, made us on very ill Terms. If I spoke to her before Company, sometimes she would Answer, and sometimes she would not; when I drank to her, as I always did every Meal, she never deigned to look at me, nor suffer me to hand her in or out of the Coach; but desired a Footman to do it for her; this she constantly did every *Sunday* in the Face of the Congregation. The following Spring, having Business, I went to *London*, and was there met, at my Desire, by your Sister: I had now a Fit of the Gout, which detained me in *London* longer than I designed, which gave

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great Offence at Home, though I left Town as soon as I was able, and sooner than most People would have done, and sooner than I ought to have done, had I regarded only my own Health; for all the following Summer I had the Gout continually flying about me. The Day after I came Home, my Mother and my Aunt left *Pinkney*, where they had been to bear my Wife Company during my Absence; my Mother heartily out of Humour with me for my long Stay in *London*, though she knew the Reason of it, and saw I could hardly then hop about: Presently after this, I had a fresh Attack of the Gout, was forced to lie by myself, and kept my Bed one Day; my Wife never once offered to come near me, nor sent to know how I did; she was very big with Child, therefore I could not fondle and caress her, but I did every Thing in my Power to avoid giving her Uneasiness; and let her say or do what she would, I never made her an ill-natured Reply, or once contradicted her: My Mother and my Aunt came again to be with her during her lying-in; I did not in that Interval show any great Love or Tenderness for her, not having any, and I cannot dissemble. Being heartily tired of my Wife, I wrote to your Sister, and engaged her to go and live Abroad with me, but on my Wife's Recovery, and better Behaviour, I desired her to stay till I had another Child. This Summer my Grandmo-

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ther had a stroke of the Palsey, which the People that were about her thought would kill her; they therefore sent Messengers to all her Grand-Children to inform them of it: I set out immediately, went to *Sidbury*; a few Days afterwards your Sister *Betty* came, expecting to meet me there: You, Sir, would not come, nor did till some Time afterwards, when you were ascertained that she was in no immediate Danger of Death; neither would your Sister have came, but for the almost Certainty of meeting with me; for by the Accounts that had been sent us, we both expected to find my Grandmother dead. Here we mutually lamented our Misfortune that I was married; for your Sister was then, and is now thoroughly satisfied in her own Mind, that I should have publickly married her whenever I could have afforded it. We parted very good Friends; I agreed to see her again the Beginning of the Winter; but was prevented by having engaged myself in *Lord Berkley's* new raised Regiment; my engaging gave great Offence to my Wife. The first Time I left the Regiment and came Home from *Bristol* to see my Wife, which was within a Week after the Regiment was arrived at *Bristol*, as soon as I came into the Room she left it, and I saw her no more till Supper; after Supper she scolded me till I turned her out of the Room; she then told me, if I would let her come back again she would be quiet,

quiet, which she was for about five Minutes ; then I turned her out of the Room again, and would not let her come in any more that Night ; when I went to bed to her she began again, and it was not in my Power to prevent her by any thing I could do or say, so she fairly talked till she was tired, and then went to sleep. I returned the next Morning to *Bristol*, which surprised Lieutenant-Colonel *Vane*, my commanding Officer, who had formerly been my School-Fellow, and had told me that I should be absent from the Regiment as much as I pleased, and we had agreed that I should go Home every Saturday, and return every Tuesday, which I fully designed doing ; yet as I was so ill used, I stayed away a Fortnight ; came to *Pinkney* again, stayed my allotted Time ; not because I was better received at Home, but to prevent its being again taken Notice of by our Officers at *Bristol* : I repeated this four or five Times, but not once a Week ; ever found the same sort of Reception at Home, which prevented my bringing any of our Officers Home with me, though Colonel *Vane* and others, even almost desired me. Having now almost learnt my Duty, I ask'd a Month's Absence of Colonel *Vane*, promising him, that if he received any Orders for Marching, and would send me an Express, I would join the Regiment the next Day : He accordingly gave me Leave, and I went to *Sidbury*,

where you and your Sister were, being much pressed by your Sister so to do, who had promised me, that if I would be alone with her in her Chamber, she would with me, and cared not what any one either said or thought; and accordingly we were Hours every Day, as you yourself know: The first Time I was with her alone, she told me, that if I had not come to her, she would have come to me.

Mr. L— came to *Sidbury* to visit me, and to get my Grandmother and me to assign over to him some Copyhold Lands, Value Fifty Pounds, in his Parish, which he and his Family had told us we had a Right to ; though as it would have been attended with some Difficulty to have got Possession of them, we had declined being admitted Tenants at his Court : He came in such a Manner, as made his Return Home, that Night, impracticable ; therefore, toward Evening he told his Sister *Molly*, who was then at *Sidbury*, that if he could not have a Bed there he would lie at a Farmer's in the Neighbourhood. She told this to your Sister, and they contrived together, that *Molly* should quit her Room to him, and lie in one of the Maid's Chambers. He stayed three or four Days, made you and your Sister promise to return the Visit as soon as I was gone, which you accordingly did, and were always together for three or four Months afterwards, either at *Sidbury*,

bury, Coton, or Kinlet; until you, Sir, as you told me, were tired of their Company, being vexed at the indecent Liberties Mr. L— used towards your Sister; kissing and toying with her before all Sorts of Company; being alone with her in her Bed-chamber Hours every Day; nay, even when she was in Bed, particularly when she had the Measles; she regularly returned him Visit for Visit, was with him alone at his own House, as much as he was at *Sidbury*: On my hearing that she was recovered of the Measles, I went to *Sidbury* to see her; it being about the Time that I had promised her I would. Just before she sickened with the Measles she told me, in one of her Letters, if I could not leave the Regiment, and come and see her, she would, if she could, come to *Pinkney* for a Month: I told her that my Wife was to go to *Bibury*, and that was impossible; but if she pleased, I would not come to *Sidbury*: She desired that I would, which I accordingly did; (as I before have said) when I came there, she was at *Coton*, and you and I freely discoursed upon the Subject of Mr. L—'s Courtship; which from the Manner it was carried on, was by no Means agreeable to you, Mr. L— never having assured, or spoke to, either you or your Sister about Marriage, as you said she had assured you. In your Discourse with me, you told me a great many particular Circumstances

cumstances which your Sister had not in her Letters told me of: When I last left your Sister, I saw she was making her Court to Mr. L—, from a Circumstance that I shall by and by relate; made her promise me to send me a regular and true Account how it went on, which Account I would believe, and not common Fame; she assured me she would never marry Mr. L—; show him then, said I, that you don't like him, act by him as you did by the last Man that made his Addresses to you, and the Affair is over at once: She told me, she could not, but promised to give me a just and true Account by Letter, how the Affair went on. The Circumstance that I took Notice of was this, Mr. L—, one Night as we were reading and singing of Songs, turned to an old *Scotch* Song that I had never heard sung, or taken Notice of before, neither could I see any thing remarkably fine, either in the Poetry or Tune; it gave an Account of one *Douglas* going to his Mistress, telling her that he had killed his Rival, who happened to be better liked by her, than himself; saying, that he should be forced to fly to *England*, and desired her to accompany him; assuring her that *Tweedside* was as pleasant as the Banks of the *Yarrow*; yet she would not go, she was constant and died for Grief: This Song Mr. L—, in a very particular Manner, declared his entire Approbation of; forced your Sister, you and me,

me, to read over several Times, and to consider of it. I told him I saw nothing remarkable in it but the Constancy, which was in itself ridiculous, as the Man was dead; ay, the Constancy, replied he. Next Morning, after Breakfast, your Sister held forth largely in praise of Constancy in Love, and happening to talk like an experienced Dame, occasioned Mr. L— and you to laugh violently; I smoothed the Affair over as well as I could: Mr. L— being a little shy, reply'd, some Years ago it would have been in the Power of almost any Woman in *England* to have persuaded him to marry her, but that now he was older and wiser; knew the real and intrinick Value of Money, therefore could not, nor would not marry any Woman in *England* without a Fortune; your Sister still continuing to talk in praise of Constancy, and making it the whole Subject of her Discourse whilst I stayed at *Sidbury*, and permitting Mr. L—, though to other Men a remarkable shy Girl, to take what Liberties he pleased with her in Company, and refusing ever to be alone with me whilst he was there, made me in my own Mind, fully satisfied that she would marry him if she could; I therefore the Summer following, told you so with great Positiveness; desired you not to send for her, nor to let her know that I was come; yet you did, unknown to me, send to her that Night, to let her know
that

that I was come, and she came to *Sidbury*. The next Day, being *Sunday*, stayed at Home alone, kept me from Church, talked to me a great deal of the Affair, but told me nothing more than she had done by Letter. I asked her seriously, whether she would marry Mr. *L*— or no; she answered me not: I asked her then why she suffered him to use such Familiarities; she told me she could not help it: How, said I, not help his being alone with you two Hours at a Time, when you are in Bed? Could you not knock upon the Floor with your Shoe, and would not *Jenny* come up to you, and could not you have desired her to sit down? She told me, she did not think of it; I seemed satisfied. The next Time she saw you, she flew into a violent Passion with you, which, as you had gave her no Cause, appeared to you quite unaccountable. You asked me sometime afterwards if I knew the Reason of it; I told you I did not; yet the true Reason was, because I had mentioned to her more Circumstances concerning her Familiarity with *L*—, than she had informed me of by Letter. *Monday* or *Tuesday* Miss *Molly L*— left *Sidbury*, where she had been for many Months; on the *Wednesday* following, we all went to *Coton*, where Mr. *L*— says, I insulted him, but as I have declared a Hundred Times since, so I do now, that I did not mean it as such: We came back that Night to *Sidbury*. This Visit was returned

returned by Miss *Molly L-* only, who came to fetch some of her Cloaths that she had left behind her, and told your Sister, that neither she, any of her Sisters, or Mr *L-* would ever come to *Sidbury* any more, unless she returned that Visit ; which on your Sister's telling me, let it be so then, said I, and assure yourself that Mr *L-* has not any the least Value or Regard for you, for if he had he would not stand on such Ceremonies ; for tho' you have done it, yet it is not much the Custom for young Ladies to go a Courting ; and assure yourself that if Mr *L-* loves you, you will hear of him again. Upon discoursing your Sister again about the Affair of Mr *L-*, and asking her, seriously, whether she designed marrying him or not, she told me she did not know whether he would have her or not : I told her the Way to know that, was to put a stop to those indecent Liberties Mr *L-* used her with ; upon which, she said, she would go by herself to *Coton*, return *Molly L-*'s Visit, and in Excuse for not having sooner done it, say that she did not like Mr *L-*'s Manner of Behaviour ; and that she would not be in his Company ever any more, unless he altered it. I advised her to do this by Letter to *Molly L-*, but could not prevail, so to *Coton* she went ; what past there I don't know ; what she told me, I'll relate to you : That Mr *L-* assured her that he would alter his Behaviour

to her ; that he did design marrying her ; to which she replied, that she would never have him ; which made him, as she told me, very melancholy and dejected, and he insisted on her keeping a Promise she had made him before I came to *Sidbury*, of being with him alone (that is to say) without you a Month together at *Coton*, which she agreed to, and told me, when she was relating this Affair to me, she was determined she would do it, and I made no Manner of Objection to it. She appeared to me very uneasy and dissatisfied, saying, that now it was all over, and that she should have a dismal Night of it : I told her, that there was no such thing in Nature as the Philosopher's Afs ; that no Body need be unhappy, that had it in their Power to do as they pleased, which she had ; that if she preferred marrying of Mr *L*—, to living with me in any Manner that was in our Power to do, the Month's Visit would set all Things right again ; that if she found Mr *L*— would not have her, she should still be welcome to me ; nay, if she married Mr *L*—, and afterwards should be unhappy, and would come to me, I would go with her, and live with her out of *England* : She told me, she would never go out of *England*, but that if I would live with her in *England*, and say that she was my Wife, she would publickly live with me ; I told her that was impossible, but if she would go with

me

me to *France* for some little Time, and write to some Friend in *England*, that I had persuaded her of the Lawfulness of a Man's having two Wives, and had accordingly married her ; to which she had the more readily consented, because she knew that I had lived very unhappy with my first Wife, and that she was sure a Separation would be for our mutual Happiness, and because she had always loved me : To which she seemingly agreed, and said, that as soon as the Month's Visit was over, she would go and stay with her Sister *De L*— at *Lincoln*, and entirely put Mr *L*— off. This Night your Sister, after she went up Stairs into her own Chamber, cried violently ; which I hearing, went to her, and the Maid left the Chamber ; I told her I would do any Thing in my Power to make her easy and happy ; she told me, she should lose her Reputation if she stayed with me in the House, therefore desired I would let her go the next Day to Mr *R*—'s, or to her Sister *D*—'s. I knew her Meaning, told her that I would go away the next Day if she desired it. You came out of your Chamber Door, and met me as I was coming up Stairs to Bed, and asked me, seriously, if I knew what it was that gave your Sister so much Un-easiness : I told you what she had several Times told me (before she desired me to let her leave *Sidbury*) that it was the Fear of losing her Reputation

putation for having put off Mr L—; says you, that cannot be the Thing ; says I, it is what she told me, so left you, and went to Bed. Next Morning, I went to her before she was up, said I would go away that Day, and that she had my free Consent to marry Mr L—, and left her immediately, before she could Answer me. At Breakfast she desired me to stay two or three Days longer, and assured me that she never would marry Mr L—, but would live with me in any Manner that I thought proper: Yet a Day or two after talking in the Great Parlour of the great Uneasiness and Fears that she was in, lest she should have proved with Child when she was with you at Bath ; I reply'd, I wish you had proved with Child, which if you had we should now have been both happy ; she answered, I was then frightened out of my Wits, and so I should now ; I fancy'd myself so, yet there is nothing but that can ever make me happy. She several Times, when I was alone with her, desired that I would kiss her and treat her in the same Manner before Company, as Mr L— did, undoubtedly with Design that Mr L— should hear of it, and desert her ; yet whenever I attempted it, she seemed not to approve of it, and would the next Time that she could speak to me, desire me not to do it : Yet at one particular Time, being the Night that I return'd from Gloucester, to which Place

I went

I went to join the Regiment, in order to be broke, she forced me to it. It was from this wavering Disposition of her's, even whilst I was upon the Spot, that made me sure that she would marry Mr. L— as soon as I was gone away, if she could, and always made me with Confidence tell you I was sure of it : For all this she imposed upon me just at last, before I left her : Three several times I had at her Desire stay'd three Days at a Time longer than I designed, after that Night's crying ; she now desired me to stay a Fortnight, and almost insisted on it : I refused her, saying, at the End of that Fortnight you will ask me to stay another ; she told me, she did not know but she might, and assured me, that as soon as the Month's Visit was out, she would go to her Sister *De L——*, and never think of Mr. L— more. I left *Sidbury*, came to *Pinkney*, wrote your Sister a Letter, and told her I was thoroughly satisfied of her Constancy. I went to *Bibury* to my Wife, stayed there about a Week, came Home by myself on Horseback, having Business ; received your Sister's Answer, wherein she expressed much Uneasiness and Dissatisfaction, I wrote to her, and desired her to do those Things that would tend most to her own Ease and Happiness, without much regarding that of others, for of that she could only guess. My Wife came Home, and we were alone together ; she seeing me uneasy

easy; and apprehending that the Cause was on Account of your Sister's going to be married, continually scolded me; which ill Usage of her's, and the Thoughts of losing your Sister, almost drove me mad. *Fred.* came here; his Company did me much good; Talking with me one Night in the *Bowling-Green* concerning his Affairs, which were not in good Order, and I seriously thinking of them, intending to give him the best Advice I could, he suddenly turned round upon me, and asked me to kill you; I replied, Will you lie with my Wife? No, said he; I hate her, said I: He replyed, I would not for the World: Nor would she let you for the World, said I. But why then should I kill your Brother? Did I say so? Yes, said I; you should think before you speak. I then advised him to lay open to you, and his whole Family, the true state of his Affairs, and doubted not but you would assist him before it was too late. Presently afterwards you came, and brought with you an Extract out of my Grandmother's Book, which was then kept by your Sister, of the Monies due from each Tenant she had, which I before perfectly knew by my Head, and told me that your Sister desired my Directions how she was to proceed; you likewise, in Conversation, told me that she had assured you that she would never marry Mr *L*--; but that her Sister *D*--'s Invitation was of such a Sort, that

she

she could not accept it. Your coming here alone; and thanking me for having invited you, when I only had done it, together with your Sister, in case Lady D—— would not let her come to *Lincoln*, fully satisfied me that she would marry Mr L— if she could, and had sent you out of the Way; that you might be no Hindrance to her; for I am sure you remember, that when I last parted with you at *Sidbury*, we agreed that you should come to *Pinkney* some time this Summer, stay here as long as you would, then I was to go with you into *Lincolnshire*, and assist you in your Scheme of inclosing your Estate, which, as you was with me, I desired you to prosecute immediately. Some time in *September*, I received a Letter from your Sister, telling me, that if I would not assure her by the Return of the Post, that I would immediately publickly say she was my Wife, she would marry Mr L—, who had now, for the first Time, asked her to marry him; she answered him, as she informed me, that at present she had no Thoughts of altering her Condition: Presently after she received my Answer, wherein I told her, I never would, and that she might marry Mr L—; or not, just as she thought proper. Mr L— asked her again, and she consented: From which Time, in all her Letters, she has ever abused me, not that she had any Occasion of doing it as I know of; for when I

left

left her at *Sidbury*, I had assured her, that if she had a Mind to marry Mr L—, I would not come to interrupt their Courtship ; and if she did marry him, ever be alone with her any more, or indeed ever see her in Company, unless my avoiding so to do might make People take Notice of it. She told me she loved and esteemed Mr L—, hated and despised me. I accordingly, in my Turn, said Things that I thought would make her uneasy ; but as you have seen all those Letters, you know the Contents of them better than I do, for I have not any one single Letter of your Sister's, or a Copy of any one Letter I ever sent to her. It is certain that I endeavoured to perswade her not to marry Mr L—, and it is as certain that I did no one Act to prevent it ; and when by Perswasion I could not prevail, I gave her up, wished her well, and assured her I would eternally keep her Secret, as she called it. It was not your Sister's perswading my Grandmother to alter her Will, nor Mr L---'s acting as though he was entire Master of her Estate, selling and cutting down Cordwood that was not fit to be cut down, and living in such an extravagant, expensive Manner, that her two Head-Servants were determined to leave her ; it was not that that could make me go to *Sidbury*, for I had promised your Sister, I would not.

About

About this Time she wrote in such a Manner to your Brother *Fred.* that I feally thought she was married to Mr *L---*, acted by his Directions, and wanted to bully me out of Money. *Fred.* was amazed at her manner of Writing; and was very uneasy at it, and inquisitive of me to know all Things that had ever passed between his Sister and me : I told him I had not been the Villain to his Sister she said. I desired him to go into *Sthropshire* to find out whether his Sister and Mr *L---* were married or not, and if they were not married, to find out which of the two was averse to it : In his Answer to me, he told me they were very fond of one another; but whether they were married or not, he could not say ; but if they were not, he believed they would in a little while. I was alone with my Wife, who I assure you solemnly had ever since she last came from *Bibury*, perpetually scolded me whenever we were so, seeing me very uneasy, as she supposed, on Account of your Sister's going to be married, although you yourself, on my Desire, had frequently perswaded her to behave otherwise, which she has, since my being last with her, acknowledged, and I, in the most fond endearing Manner possible, entreated her to alter her Behaviour only for one Week, which I could not get her to promise, but on Condition I would agree to part with her, and allow her a separate Maintenance, and prevail

with her Mother to let her live with her. I told her if she would try for a Week, and then desired it, I would endeavour to prevail with her Mother to let her be at *Bibury*: She promised me she would, but did not keep her Promise a Day: Being not able to bear such Usage, I went to *London*; told my Wife before I went, if she would get any Body, I did not care who; to be with her constantly in the House, I would once more try to live with her, but if she would not, I never would try again; and wrote in such sort to my Mother, that she plainly saw I was determined to part with my Wife, unless she altered her Behaviour. I declare solemnly, I never once began quarrelling with her, very seldom, or ever gave her a miss Word, never till highly provoked; though after I had tried all other Ways in vain, I have, when she has been in Bed a scolding, poured out of a Bottle a little cold Water upon her, which, thought had not an immediate good Effect, yet talking of the Bottle did, for two or three Nights, procure me quiet; but at last that failed me, so that I had nothing left for it but Patience, let her talk on till she was tired and out of Breath, then she would go to sleep. Some little time after I was in *London*, I heard that Mr *L---* and your Sister were coming to Town to be married, which I really believed to be true. When they came to Town, your Sister sent me Word by

Fred.

Fred. that she would not see me ; yet, as I knew that L--- did not lodge in the House with her, I ventured to call pretty early in the Morning, but she denied herself. In a little while I received a Message by Lord D----, to this Effect ; that if I would not give her Sidbury Estate, I should be prosecuted. I told him, I would not, that they could do me no Hurt ; that she pretended to be my Wife ; nay, said he, they mentioned nothing of that to me, so I will neither tell you what they said, nor them what you said ; was in haste, and left me ; but told me I might come to him the next Day at One o'Clock, and tell him the whole Story if I pleased. I accordingly told him the whole Story, in a short Manner, which when he had heard, he said we had both used him very ill in letting him talk to Mr S----- concerning his, or his Wife's proposing me to Mrs W--- as a fit Match for her Daughter, therefore he would have nothing to say to either of us. I desired him in the strongest manner I possibly could, to interpose, and if it was in his Power, to prevent two young People, his Relations, from ruining one another's Reputation for no End or Purpose. He said he would consult a Friend of his that had a better Head than himself, and act the Part of an honest Man. I was strangely distracted in my own Mind to find out what L--- meant, sometimes

fancying that they were married, sometimes that they were not, and that *L---*, as I would not give him the Estate, would, by ruining your Sister's Reputation, take Occasion to declare off. Not knowing what to make of it, I, by *Fred.* desired to see them, under pretence of giving an Answer to the Message myself; accordingly, a Time was appointed; I went to your Sister's Lodging somewhat before the Time, thinking possibly I might then speak to her by herself, but could not; *L---* came in Twenty Minutes; I stayed about Ten Minutes afterwards: Your Sister not coming into the Room, I went away, thinking that it was not impossible but I might yet speak with her alone. I sent her a Letter by *Fred.* telling her, that *L—* was going to ruin her; desired her to quit the Villain for an Hour, and talk with me. This Letter was directed for Miss *S-----*. *Fred.* brought it back to me again, and said, that both his Sister and Mr *L---* said it was not for her, yet they had read it. I was now in my own Mind sure that they were married, told *Fred.* so, but he fancied they were not, yet could not tell what to make of it, and agreed with me to go pretty early the next Morning to your Sister's Lodgings, not to let her know that I was with him, and to talk to her without *L---* if it was possible, but it was not, unless I would have done it by Force; I suppose she sent for *L---*, for he came presently afterwards,

wards, went immediately into her Bed-chamber; without rapping at the Door or any other Ceremony, came and told me that as her Affairs were at present in Lord D—'s Hands, she would not speak with me. I accordingly went away, and gave up all Thoughts of seeing her but in Company with L—, which I did in a Day or two afterwards; told her the Message I received from Lord D—; ay, said she; I replied, and if I give you the Estate you will marry that Man, looking at L—; ay, why not? said she, to which L. likewise assented. I told her I would not increase her Fortune a Farthing if she married him; L—said, that when he courted Miss S— first, he took her to be Miss S--- with 2000*l.* Fortune, that Part of his Estate was so settled that he could not give it to whom he pleased, and therefore with that Fortune could not now afford to marry her: I laughed at him, and he threatened me with Prosecution: I told him and her they could get nothing but Infamy and Shame by it; she said, Revenge; and he swore that I should be prosecuted. Your Sister all this Time had never once looked at me, tho' I endeavour'd to catch her Eyes as much as possible, fancying that by her Looks I could better find out her Meaning than by her Words; accordingly I fixed my Eyes on the Fire, ruminating on what had passed, with a Design of suddenly turning them on her: Mr L--- said something to me, which, tho' I heard

the

the Sound I knew not a single Word he said, I told him I did not understand him, I think, said he, I speak plain enough and would not repeat it : I suddenly turned my Eyes on your Sister and saw she was attempting to cry, which puts me in Mind of another Circumstance that happened when *Fred.* and I went in the Morning to try if it was possible to talk with her without *L—*; she had fastened her Chamber Door, we both spoke to her, she answered in such a Manner that I thought she was crying ; at last she let *Fred.* in to her Chamber : When we went away, I took Notice of it to *Fred.* I thought so too, said he, but she did not I assure you. I asked *L—* what made him so sure that I should be prosecuted that he swore it, told him I fancied it was no Busines of his ; he replied, he would do nothing without the Consent of all the *S—es*, with which Answer I appeared satisfied, saying, surely they will not all do wrong ; asked your Sister how she came to tell *L—* any thing of our Affairs ; she said she did not, but that he found it out ; I laughed at her, and asked her to go into the next Room, in *L—'s* View, and talk with me ; she returned no Answer ; *L—* said, do as you will, but if you do I will give you up ; I replied, after some Pause, do not ; thinking that I would not furnish him with a Pretence of deserting a Girl, whose Reputation he was going to Ruin. Your Sister said that she had received four Letters from me,

after I had gave my Consent that she should marry *L--*, before she told him, which must be eight Weeks, for I wrote to her but once a Fortnight, in this Manner : I sent my Letter to the Post-Office on a Saturday, she received it some time in the next Week ; on the Saturday following sent her Answer to the Post-Office, which I always received on the Wednesday, and answered it on the Saturday following. We next talked about my Grandmother's Health, Country Affairs, and other Things, that I thought of less Consequence ; I wished your Sister well, and left her, tho' at first, when I went into the Room, thinking they were villainously contriving to ruin my Character without advantaging themselves, I took no more Notice of them, than if they had been two Statues. *Fred.* was coming away with me, they desired him to stay ; the next Time I saw him, I asked him, what they said after I was gone ; he said, *L--* told your Sister she had a Mind to talk with me, and she said she had not, I next endeavoured, heartily, to see your Brother *Tommy*, as we usually called him, but was disappointed three successive Days ; which *Fred.* telling *L--* of, I suppose he told him some Tale ; for the next Day I receiv'd an abusive threatening Letter from him ; in Answer to which, after having expressed some Disdain at the Threats, I desired him, as I have since done all of you, to be at the Pains of knowing

knowing the Truth of the Affair, and as I said at the Beginning, partly referred myself to him: Presently after I received a Letter from *Fred.* telling me I had imposed on him, and he would never see me more, except in Company with Mr *L---* and his Sister. You came to Town, sent me an abusive Letter, told me you would not see me on any Terms: Being perplexed and confounded, I delivered a Letter at your Sister's Lodgings, directed for her, desiring to meet her casually, as she went any where, to have a few Minutes Conversation with her, and to let me know from her Window, in half an Hour, whether she would or not. Accordingly I went by her Window in half an Hour, and saw *L---* and your Brother *Tommy* there, which fully satisfied me, that *L---* either was married to, or had promised you all that he would marry your Sister, if you let him do as he pleased by me; and from his Character, I knew what I had to expect *. Yet I ceased not doing every Thing in my Power to prevent your publishing this Affair, and no Man ever took more true Pains to so little Purpose.

* Mr *L.* has the Character of persecuting those he has Ill-will to, with great Rancour and Malice, without regarding either his own Interest or Reputation: His unjust and barbarous Usage of Mr *S-----n*, a Man of Truth, Honour, and Sincerity, justifies me in this Remark; for Mr *S-----n* has assured me, he ever was his Friend, and ever served him with Zeal.

dearing Manner, if she would live with me as a Wife, told her, if she then refused, never hereafter to Reproach me ; she refused, and in a little time I began writing this Letter, which, till I had half finished, I never understood what you all meant by the Terms, neither am I quite sure that I do so now. Lately my Wife has behaved towards me in a more obliging Way than ever she did in her Life, and possibly would not be sorry to live with me as a Wife ; but I think we had better not try again, for tho', perhaps, we might at first agree well enough, I am sure it could not last, and that it will be better for both of us to remain separate ; tho' she is a religious, virtuous Woman, frugal enough, and, as to her own Person, quite parsimonious ; no Lover or Frequenter of publick Places, and never once in any Matter of Consequence ever disobeyed ; and when I was from Home, ever did the Things that she thought I should have done had I been at Home ; yet her Tongue, her provoking and constantly employed Tongue, would certainly rob me of all Ease and Comfort in Life : tired of the Way of Life she was in, and thinking, that all Delays, concerning the Articles of Separation; proceeded from me, she scolded me heartily about it : In a Day or two afterwards Mr. R—— came, the Articles were executed, and we are separated.

Having finished this long, tedious, and to all but the concerned, most trifling Tale, which you have forced me to make publick by yours, and every one of your Family's utter Refusal of seeing me, unless I will entirely give to your Sister an Estate worth between thirteen and fourteen thousand Pounds, together with your publishing a false Tale in the *General Evening Post*.

No Man more strenuously ever endeavoured to gain any Point than I have done, to be admitted in a private Manner, to attempt to justify myself to you, and your Family, but all in vain ; nay, even since this has began to be printed, I told you by Letter I would not publish it, if you desired the contrary ; but the Reverse of that appearing, I am willing the World shall judge of me as I am, and not think me the Villain you have in vain attempted by Abuse and Lies to make them believe me to be : You may be surprized, that I have made no mention of a Marriage in the *Fleet* ; my Friend, thro' whose Hands I conveyed this to the Prefs, blotted out what I said relating to it, it being of no Consequence, either to you, or any of your Family. It has been declared by you, and in the most publick Manner, that I, by great Labour and Assiduity, debauched your Sister, then married her, next attempted to poison her with Laudanum, afterwards married my present Wife

Wife unknown to her, then persecuted her with my Company, and by Lies and Slander prevented her marrying *Lancelot L-*, Esq; a Gentleman of great Parts, large Estate, &c. and entered into a Confederacy with *Fred.* that he should get to Bed with my Wife.

Did not you, in Answer to one of my Letters sent you before this Affair was publick, earnestly desiring to see you, telling you, I fancied you knew not the true State, for that if you did, you would act otherwise, tell me, that I was mad, and that you knew every Thing I could inform you of; if so, Sir, why do you publish a false State of the Case? what good End will it answer? is it of any Consequence to thirty People in the World, who is the most abandoned your Sister or me? I thought it would have too much broke into the Tale had I related what usually passed in those private Conversations between your Sister and me, which I have before represented, I very industriously avoided in the first of them at *Pinkney* (which was after she had silently consented) as I stood by her talking of indifferent Things, she took me by the Hand, and asked me to set down, meaning on her Lap, with my Face to her, I did so, kissed her, and told her I thought I was too heavy for her, No, said she, I should be proud to bear your Weight, and clasped me round the Waist, pressed me hard to her, I still kissing

of her, and asking her to lie with her, she replying, marry me then, I will, said I, if I get you with Child, or if I don't cure your Love; do it then in such a Manner, said she, as I shall not be able to prove it; No, said I, not whilst my Grandmother lives; do what you have a Mind, she replied, I am sure you can't do any Thing that will be either displeasing or affronting to me, but I will never consent: Such as these were all our latter Conversations, whenever we were alone, therefore I avoided them; not that I pretend to boast more Continence or Chastity than other Men; I ever indulged all my Passions, which undoubtedly was the Reason why, at that time, I had not any greater Liking to your Sister than to other Women; therefore would not lie with a Girl, whose Welfare I would have as industriously promoted as you, or any of her Brothers; I say I would not, tho' I had it in my Power to have done it any Day for Years, for she never, till lately, ever scrupled being with me alone in any Place, or any Manner, nothing but her violent, and, as I thought, dangerous Illness, and being invited by her into Bed, made me then do it, on the ridiculous Terms I before mentioned, which I verily believe were not designed to be kept by either Party, I am sure they were not by me; neither had I then lain with her, let what would have been the Consequence, had she

she not agreed, that I should marry another Woman: She consented that I should marry several, yet I never seriously set about it, till I was sure she could bear it.

When I married Miss W——, I loved her as well as I loved your Sister the Day before I went to Bed to her, and determined to make her a good Husband, not doubting but that your Sister's Pride and Virtue, when absent from me, would enable her to overcome her Passion, that she would reflect, that it was impossible for us to live together publickly in *England*: But, as I before observed, my Wife and I quarrelled soon after we were married, because I did not go to Church with her twice the first *Sunday* afterwards, that being the only Reason she ever gave me for her first slighting Behaviour, and as for her last, began as I before related, whilst from Home a visiting, I could never get any. I began to love your Sister, finding Ease whenever I was with her, and Un-easiness when with my Wife; and as she always assured me she never would have any Thing to say to any other Man; I thought I had better live with her, and be easy any where, than live in *England*, and be uneasy; therefore I engaged her to live with me abroad, presently after the Birth of my Son; but on my Wife's altering her Behaviour, I prevailed with her to stay longer. — Having now told you, and

and the Publick, the whole Truth; what am I to do, or what do you expect, your Sister never having yet kept any Promise of Consequence she ever made me, has no Claim, or well-grounded Expectancy, that I should keep any; yet was I sure that it was my Letters, and not *L*'s Fickleness and better Acquaintance with her, that prevented their marrying, possibly I might do something: The indecent Manner in which they lived, whilst last in London, shocked even the Mistress of a Lodging House, who was afraid of loosing her Reputation, and warmly expostulated the Affair with your Sister; told her she would discredit her House by letting a Man be alone with her till three or four o'Clock in the Morning, however innocently they might pass their Time.

Yours,

THO. EST. CRESSWELL.

1788 Nov: Died at his house, at Pintney in the
County of Wilts, Thomas Edward Cresswell Esq.

